

House Bill 359

By: Representatives Walker of the 107th, Reese of the 98th, and Sheldon of the 105th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to enact the "Georgia Home School Opportunity and Enrichment Act"; to provide for legislative findings; to require a local school system to allow home study students in grades nine through 12 to participate in extracurricular activities; to provide for academic requirements; to provide for ineligibility; to provide that the home study student is subject to all rules, regulations, and codes of conduct as other students; to provide for rules and regulations by the Department of Education; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Home School Opportunity and Enrichment Act."

SECTION 2.

The General Assembly finds that extracurricular student activities are an important complement to the academic curriculum and that participation in extracurricular activities contributes to student development of the social and intellectual skills necessary to become a well-rounded adult. Further, the General Assembly finds that the state has an investment in every child in this state and his or her education, regardless of where that child is being educated.

SECTION 3.

Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

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1 "20-2-319.3.

2 (a) A local school system shall allow a student in grades nine through 12 in a home study
3 program which meets the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 to
4 participate in any and all extracurricular activities offered or conducted by the school in
5 which such child would be enrolled by virtue of his or her residence in the same manner
6 as any student currently attending the school as a public school student. A home study
7 student shall register with the principal of the school, or his or her designee, of the
8 student's intent to participate in extracurricular activities of the school in accordance with
9 rules and regulations established by the department. A home study student shall be
10 required to complete any forms required by the school system or required pursuant to
11 department rules.

12 (b) In order to be eligible to participate pursuant to this Code section, a home study student
13 shall:

14 (1) Maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average; and

15 (2) Achieve a passing score on a standardized, noncurriculum based, test as approved by
16 the department.

17 The parent or guardian of the home study student shall submit a grade report to the
18 principal of the school, or his or her designee, at the end of each semester. It shall be the
19 responsibility of the home study student and his or her parent or guardian to make all
20 arrangements to take the test required pursuant to this subsection and to provide the
21 principal of the school, or his or her designee, with the results of such test prior to
22 participation in any extracurricular activity.

23 (c) A home study student who does not meet the academic requirements contained in
24 subsection (b) of this Code section shall be ineligible to participate on an athletic team of
25 the school for the remainder of the school year.

26 (d) A home study student shall comply with the same rules and requirements for
27 participation that apply to any student's participation in the same activity and shall be
28 subject to the same code of conduct as would apply to other students participating in the
29 same activity.

30 (e) The department shall establish rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
31 Code section."

32 **SECTION 4.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.